

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 02100 080359Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06  
PRS-01 /062 W  
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R 071530Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3422  
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA  
AMEMBASSY ZARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2100

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ET, FR, SO, SU  
SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN VICTORY DAY CELEBRATIONS

SUMMARY: ETHIOPIA OBSERVED 36TH VICTORY DAY ANNIVERSARY,  
COMMEMORATING EXPULSION OF ITALIANS DURING WWII,  
IN SUBDUED CELEBRATIONS APRIL 6. PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU'S  
ADDRESS TO CROWD IN ADDIS REVOLUTION SQUARE ATTACKED  
REACTIONARYHIRAB RULERS, REACTIONARY RULERS OF NEIGHBORING  
COUNTRIES WHO CLAIM TO FOLLOW "SCIENTIFIC SOCIALIST"  
IDEOLOGY, AND ESPECIALLY SUDANESE RULER EL NIMEIRY. SPEECH  
CONTAINED STANDARD COMDEMNATION OF EPRP, EDU AND ELF BUT  
OMITTED ANY REFERENCE TO U.S. OR CIA. VERY LARGE CROWD  
WAS GENERALLY QUIET. SOME PLACARDS WERE IN EVIDENCE,  
BUT UNLIKE MOST RECENT COMPARABLE RALLIES, VERY FEW  
PLACARDS HAD ANTI-U.S. OR ANTI-CIA THEMESE, PERHAPS  
BECAUSE THIS RALLY DID NOT INCLUDE PARADE. APRIL 6  
ETHVTPIAN HERALD EDICTORIAL ELABORATED ON MENGISTU  
SPEECH, SPECIFICALLY CONDEMING REACTIONARY RULING  
CLIQUE IN KHARTOUM, EYQANSIONIST SOMALIA, AND FRENCH-  
HATCHED CONSPIRACY, IN COLLABORATION WITH REACTIONARY  
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ARAB QUARTERS TO "TIE DJIBOUTI TO SOMALIA CHARIOT."  
END SUMMARY.

1. ETHIOPIA OBSERVED 36TH VICTORY DAY ANNIVERSARY  
MORNING APRIL 6 IN RELATIVELY SUBDUED MANNER.  
CELEBRATION NOT UNLIKE RECENT PRO-GOVT  
RALLIES EXCEPT SKITS, SONGS AND DEMONSTRATION OF THE

PROWESS OF WORKERS' DEFENSE SQUADS AND PEASANT MILITIA WITH THEIR NEW-FOUND WEAPONS, REPLACED THE PARADE. PARTICIPATION BY KEBELE DEFENSE SQUADS MADE WEAPONS MORE NUMEROUS IN CROWD. PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THIS, LARGE SECURITY FORCE DEPLOYED AROUND PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU. HIGHLIGHT OF CELEBRATION WAS 15-MINUTE MENGISTU SPEECH IN WHICH HE PRAISED STRUGGLE OF ETHIOPIAN PATRIOTS AGAINST IMPERIALISTS AS EXAMPLE TO BE FOLLOWED AT PRESENT. IN EXHORTING CROWD, MENGISTU PROMISED REVOLUTION WOULD BE TAKING EVEN MORE OFFENSIVE POSTURE AND EPMG WOULD CONTINUE TO ARM PEOPLE TO LIMIT OF ITS AVAILABLE RESOURCES. HE SAID THERE NOT ALTERNATIVE TO AN INTENSIFIED STRUGGLE, ADDING THAT UNLESS UNITY OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES FORGED NOW, CREATION OF PROLETARIAT PARTY CANNOT PROCEED AND ADDED "OUR STRUGGLE IS RACE AGAINST TIME."

2. IN CITING ENEMIES OF REVOLUTION, MENGISTU CONDEMNED IMPERIALISTS COLLABORATING WITH CERTAIN REACTIONARY RULERS OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WHO CLAIM TO BE "SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISTS", AND WHO IN PROCESS OF CHALLENGING ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION THROUGH INFILTRATORS THEY HAVE TRAINED AND ARMED. MENGISTU ALSO STATED, SUDANESE RULER EL NIMEIRY, AND CERTAIN OTHER REACTIONARY ARAB RULERS, WERE ENDEAVORING TO FORCE ETHIOPIA TO CHOOSE BETWEEN ITS REVOLUTION OR ERITREA. THESE RULERS OPERATING UNDER PATRONAGE OF IMPERIALISTS IN COLLABORATION WITH EPRP, EDU AND ELF BROKERS WHO SEEK TO SEVER AND SELL PART OF COUNTRY. IN CONCLUSION, CONFIDENTIAL

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MENGISTU SAID IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ISOLATE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION AND THAT ETHIOPIA WILL BE "AN ABSOLUTELY PEOPLE'S ETHIOPIA AND FULLY DEMOCRATIC ETHIOPIA."

3. APR 6 EDITORIAL SPECIFIED EXTERNAL ENEMIES OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION. THESE INCLUDED: KHARTOUM, WHICH "HAS VOWED OPENLY TO ASSIST ARISTOCRATIC RIFFRAFF IN EDU" AND SEPARATISTS AND ARAB-HIRED MERCENARIES CALLING THEMSELVES ELF; EXPANSIONIST SOMALIA WHICH "WORKING HAND AND GLOVE WITH REACTIONARY RULING CLASSES IN ARAB WORLD," AND TRAINING RUN-AWAY FEUDALISTS, REACTIONARIES AND PAID ASSASSINS TO INFILTRATE SOUTHEASTERN ETHIOPIAN BORDER; AND FRANCE WHICH "HATCHING CONSPIRACY IN COLLABORATION WITH REACTIONARY ARABS TO TIE DJIBOUTI TO SOMALIA CHARIOT". ALL THESE "ENEMIES" CHARACTERIZED AS IMPERIALISTS. EVEN BRITISH CAME IN FOR LUMPS IN APR 6 HERALD REVOLUTIONARY COLUMN ARTICLE FOR THEIR "JACKAL-LIKE" POLICY OF REINSTALLING "CAPTIVE AND PUPPET"

KING IN 1941, AS "BEST AVAILABLE LEADER FOR ETHIOPIA."

4. COMMENT: VICTORY DAY CELEBRATION AND ETHUSIASM  
OF PARTICIPATNS SOMEWHAT SUBDUE. HOWEVER,  
MENGISTU SPEECH AND NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL ILLUSTRATE  
CONTINUING ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN POLICY CONCERNS. IT  
PARTICULARLY INTERESTING TO NOTE FIRST DIRECT ATTACK  
ON SOMALIA SINCE CASTRO MEDIATION EFFORTS, SUPPORTING  
THEORY THAT REPORTED CASTRO EFFORTS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.  
CONTINUING ATTACK ON NIMEIRY NOT SURPRISING,  
ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF APPARENTLY DETERIORATING  
SITUATION ALONG NORTHERN ETHIOPIAN-SUDANESE BORDER.  
ALTHOUGH FRENCH-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS HAVE BEEN DECLINING  
RECENTLY, DIRECT ACCUSATION AGAINST FRENCH INDICATION  
OF INCREASING ETHIOPIAN CONCERN EVENTS NOT GOING WELL  
FOR THEM IN DJIBOUTI. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHY WE WERE  
EXCUSED THIS TIME, BUT MANY DIPLOMATS COMMENTED TO  
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CHARGE ON ABSENCE OF ANTI-U.S. THEMES.  
TIENKEN

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## Message Attributes

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